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THE HISTORY OF CANANDAIGUA. N.Y.

AN

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

July 4, 1876.

BY J. ALBERT GRANGER, Esq.

CANANDAIGUA, N. Y.

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE ONTARIO REPOSITORY AND MESSENGER.
1876.

CANANDAIGUA, JULY 6th, 1876.

MR. J. ALBERT GRANGER:

Sir: The wish has been expressed by very many of our citizens, that you would prepare and furnish for publication in pamphlet form, the Address which you delivered at our Centennial anniversary, making such corrections and additions to it as you may deem necessary and of interest to the inhabitants of this old and cherished spot—"Canandarque."

THO'S S. BEALS.

M. H. CLARK,

H. F. BENNETT,

and others.

CANANDAIGUA, JULY 9th, 1876.

THO'S S. BEALS, Hon. M. H. CLARK, H. F. BENNETT,
and others.

Gentlemen: I am in the receipt of yours of the 6th inst. In reply I would say that the manuscript is at your service for such disposition as you may see fit to make of it. I refrain from making any important additions to it, save the correction of some errors which its hasty preparation rendered unavoidable, adding in its publication only that portion which the brief space allotted to its reading compelled me to omit. The field is so broad, and the materials so abundant, while my recorded facts are so scanty, that I would not feel justified in letting it go out as a History at all, were it not that those interested in the subject—and there must be many—are to be so soon supplied by a "History of the County," collated and prepared by abler hands than mine.

Yours very truly,

J. ALBERT GRANGER.

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HISTORY OF CANANDAIGUA.

BY J. ALBERT GRANGER, Esq.

Read at the Centennial Celebration, July 4, 1876.

It was only an ox cart—rough and strong; achieved for themselves a more remarkable home they were leaving, and it was only fame than any others. During the time Israel Chapin, Daniel Gates, Frederick Saxton and a few others, whose figures were fading in the forest, but all there was of Canandaigua was then being jolted into the wilderness. There was, and had been for several centuries, a Canandaigua—Gan-undagwa then, a flourishing, populous Indian village, the second principal town of the Six Nations; but our Canandaigua, our “Chosen Spot” was only now in swaddling clothes, and lifted up her voice in the wilderness as she was rudely and yet tenderly borne through the forest, where the rustle of the leaf and the crackle of the brush told other tales than those the breezes bore, to be laid and nourished, reared, guarded and defended, not only beside, but from the council fires of the Senecas.

These men were her sponsors—Templars, valiantly pledging their lives in her defence. Reaching Schenactady they went out from under the then last roof into an unbroken wilderness. Boating their way along the Mohawk; around the leaping cataract at Little Falls; across our inland lakes; up small rivers and smaller creeks, and out upon our own lake, they landed, after weeks of toil and hardship, at the foot of what is now Main-street, and put their infant child in bed—a “Sleeping Beauty” in a “Chosen Spot.”

The Six Nations, as a people, in this latter day, are but little known to us. Certainly neither they, nor their government are appreciated, if known at all. Excepting the Indians of Mexico and Peru, the Iroquois—as the six nations were called—

At the time of the Dutch discovery in 1609, the Iroquois were in possession of the same territories which General Chapin found them holding nearly two hundred years later. Their government had stood unshaken all that time, and they had so prospered in all the march of Indian advancement that they ruled supreme; were respected and feared from the British possessions to the Gulf, and carried their war parties from the coast beyond the Mississippi. Originally there were but five nations in their Confederacy—the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, the Cayugas, and the Senecas—but a band of Tuscaroras emigrated from the South and were adopted into their League, making the sixth.—Their government was representative and elective. Their League was established on the principle of Family Relationship, constituting, as the word Iroquois signifies, one *Long House*; each nation being one fire under the same roof. The nations bore the same relation to the League which our States do to the Union. They had one supreme Sachem. Each nation, according to its numbers, furnished four, six, and eight others, which title and office were hereditary. After these came a larger number of

chiefs who were yearly elected, and after these the war chiefs. We see in this our President, Senators and Representatives, as well as army. But they had another bond of union which bound them more closely together than anything we can boast. When a people have long remained in a tribal state, it becomes difficult to remove the clannish traces which grow so strong with years; among the Greeks this never wholly disappeared. The Iroquois, while they rested the League itself upon the nations, sought to interweave the race into one political family. Each nation, therefore, was divided into six tribes, which were named after some animal; one of these tribes was sent to live with one of each of the other nations, retaining only one-sixth of their original nation, but receiving in turn from each of the others a tribe from it corresponding in name to that tribe of their own nation already retained.

The Seneca nation, as an example, having sent off to other nations those of their own number, according as they were of the "Deer," "Turtle," or other tribe, received from each of the others those who were of the "Wolf" tribe, and so, keeping their number full, all being of one tribe, but only one-sixth of them Senecas, had within themselves a sure preventive of internal dissensions.

How long Canandaigua had been the principal town of the Senecas, it is impossible to say. The village of Victor was burned by the French in 1687, and at that time this place had long been the largest of all the Indian villages.

At the eastern terminus of Gibson-street, within but a few rods of where to-day we have trod, there stand the remains of an old fort, the voiceless witness of a time we know nothing of. A legend of the Senecas, according to an address of DeWitt Clinton delivered in 1811, in the city of New York, attributes it to a Spanish army, who were the first Europeans seen by them; the French next; then the Dutch, and finally the English. This army, says the legend, landed at Oswego in search of gold, penetrated this western country and returned to the South by way of the Ohio.

The fort was built by the Spaniards as a defence against the Indians, intending, had gold been found, to make it a permanent garrison for present occupancy and future operations.

During the Revolutionary war, the Six Nations were, as a League, neutral; but very many, and some of them their most powerful chiefs, took up the hatchet in favor of the mother country and showed their zeal by massacres whose stories thrill us yet. Indeed so much inflamed had all their passions become by the deeds of some of their number, that they all became more than troublesome to the general government, and it was necessary to strike a blow at them which should effectually hold them in restraint. By an act of Congress in 1778, Gen. Washington was authorized to dispatch an army into this region. On the 22d of August, 1779, Gen. Sullivan formed a junction with Gen. Jas. Clinton, and with an army of 5,000, took the forest for the lodges of the Senecas. The Indians were 1,600 strong, but more than counterbalanced the disparity of numbers by their knowledge of the country and the advantages the forest gave them in their manner of fighting. The first stand was made at Newtown, now Elmira, but, although the Indians were under Brant, and the Rangers under Butler, they were easily driven from their defences.—Sullivan followed up his advantage and drove them straight before him. Down the east shore of our lake; across its foot, humanely regardless of the squaws and children, who, for safe keeping were hidden on the island; straight through to Conesus lake, burning all the lodges and corn fields of the savages, came the army, and rested only when it had fully dispersed their foe, leaving them with famine staring them in the face. So severe a lesson disheartened the natives. Their homes and fields were gone. The old places were never to be to them what they had been before; and while they made peace with the white man, there was enmity in their hearts. They were wholly restless, going off in bands, and leaving the ashes of their village here to be for ever scattered.

Peace had not done for them what it was to do, and they stubbornly refused to yield up any of their old time customs.— Building new lodges away from the old, they prepared to return to that life which the events of the Revolution had interrupted. It was just at this point then, where faded these olden memories and budded new hopes; when civilization commenced to swing wide of barbarism; when these Six Nations, from the Mohawk to the Senecas, were filled with burning hatred of the whites, jealous of their encroachments and doubly watchful of their hunting grounds, that our infant Canandaigua awakened from her first sleep here, and cried out, “Peace on earth, good will to man.”

In the year 1620, James L., King of Great Britain, granted to the Plymouth Company a tract of land called New England, extending several degrees of latitude north and south, and reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. Charles L., some twenty years later, granted to the Duke of York and Albany, the Province of New York, then including New Jersey. This tract extended from a line twenty miles east of the Hudson River westward rather indefinitely, and from the Atlantic Ocean north to the south line of Canada, then a French Province. From this collision of description each of the colonies laid claim to the jurisdiction, as well as the pre-emption right of the same land, but in the year 1781, New York, and in 1785 Massachusetts ceded to the United States all the territory lying west of a meridian line run south from the westerly bend of Lake Ontario. There were then left 19,000 square miles of disputed territory, but on the 16th day of December, 1786, this dispute was settled by a Board of Commissioners convened at Hartford, Connecticut, by the stipulations of which Massachusetts ceded to New York all her claims to the territory lying west of the east line of the State of New York, and, in turn, New York ceded to Massachusetts the fee of the land, subject to the title of the natives, of all that part lying west of a line beginning at a fixed point in the north line of Pennsylvania, running due north

through Seneca Lake to Lake Ontario, reserving only a strip of land along the Niagara River one mile wide. This tract contained some six millions of acres, and in 1788 was contracted by the State of Massachusetts to Nathaniel Gorham of Charlestown, and Oliver Phelps of Granville, in that State, for the sum of *one million* dollars. In July of the same year these gentlemen purchased the Indian title to some 2,600,000 acres, bounded west by a point in the north line of Pennsylvania, due south of a point of land made by the confluence of Canasraga Creek and Genesee River; thence north to the corner or point at such confluence: thence northwardly along the waters of the River to a point *two* miles north of Canewagus village; thence due west *twelve* miles; thence northwardly so as to be *twelve* miles distant from the western boundaries of the river to the shore of Lake Ontario, leaving the eastern boundaries as originally fixed. This tract, and this only, is the Phelps and Gorham purchase.

Canandaigua now commenced to grow. She could nearly stand alone. In the summer of 1789 Augustus Porter came on as surveyor with Hugh Maxwell, and found four houses already erected, one being near the old outlet at the Lake; another on what is now the site of the First National Bank; a third in the corner of the Phelps lot near the square; and one further up Main-st.— In 1790, the first census was taken. That of the county was 1081—of the town 106—embraced in eighteen families. Settlers steadily came in. The Genesee country prospered beyond precedent in spite of the difficulties of getting here, the fevers incident to a new country and the hostile Indians. This prosperity was much increased subsequently by the Pickering Treaty with the Indians, which was made in 1794, by which through concessions on the part of the United States, as well as the Indians, a better feeling was maintained and friendliness more universal. The first name we find for all New York west of Albany was that bestowed by the Dutch in 1638:—“*Terra Incognita*”—The Unknown Land. It was next called Albany county. In 1772,

Tryon county, named after the then English Governor, was set off, embracing all of the territory west of a line that would pass through the centre of Schoharie county. After the Revolution this name was changed to Montgomery. In 1788 all west of Utica was called Whitestown. The first town meeting ever held in the then Montgomery county, was held in the barn of Capt. Daniel White, in April, 1789, Jedediah Sanger being elected Supervisor. In 1791, James Wadsworth was elected the first Path Master west of Cayuga Lake.— It could have been little more than the supervision of the Indian trails, but the warning out to work the roads must have been something of a task. In these elections the polls were opened at Cayuga Ferry, adjourned to Onondaga and closed at Whitestown. Herkimer county was taken off Montgomery in '91, and embraced all west of the lines of that county.

As the foot of our lake was a central spot, Mr. Phelps determined to make it the centre of future operations, and accordingly a store-house was erected. The next step was to make roads; men were therefore employed who underbrushed and cleared out a road from here to Geneva.— Then a wagon road to Manchester was cut through. People could now move in more easily, and in the fall of '92 there were thirty families here, Venison in the woods and fish in the lake were plenty; black-berries, rasp-berries, wild plums and crab apples were to be had in their season.— The first currants served were by Mrs. Sanborn, at a Tea Party in '94, and the event was marked as an era in the history of the town. In this same year Ananias Miller built a mill at Mud Creek. In '95 the sale of several slaves is noted.

The Court of Common Pleas and Grand Sessions was held at the house of Nathaniel Sanborn, in November, '94, Timothy Hosmer and Charles Williamson being presiding Judges; Enos Boughton associate or side Justice. The Attorneys were Thomas Morris, John Wickham, James Wadsworth, and Vincent Mathews. There were some suits on the calendar, but no

jury trial. A Grand Jury was empanelled and one indictment found. The next session of the Court was in June, '95, Peter B. Porter, Nathaniel W. Howell, Stephen Ross, and Thomas Munneford were admitted to practice. The first jury trial west of Herkimer county was held at this Court, the case being the trial of an indictment for stealing a cow bell. John Wickham was District Attorney, but the prosecution was conducted by N. W. Howell; the defence by Vincent Mathews and Peter B. Porter.

Gen. Israel Chapin first represented this District in the Legislature, and Robert Morris first in Congress. Luther Cole carried the mail in his pocket from here to Whitestown; Phineas Bates took the same west to Fort Niagara. The first birth was that of Oliver Phelps Rice; the first death that of Caleb Walker. Both occurred in 1790. The first store was opened by Samuel Gardner; the first school taught by Major Wallis in '92. The first religious service held here was the Episcopal Burial Service, read at Walker's funeral. However, in this same year, the record tells us regular meetings were held in Mr. Phelps's barn, services being read by John Call;—singing by Mr. Sanborn. Prayers were omitted as there was no one to make them. The first wheat was raised on a farm through which Gibson street now runs, by Abner Barlow, and taken by him to Utica to mill. Dr. Williams settled as physician here in '93; William Antis came through from Penn. and set up a gun shop, which at that time was quite as useful as stated preaching. Some trade for furs sprang up. Explorers and traders of all nations penetrated to the settlement; and in their trading, not only with the settlers, but with the Indians, there had grown the need of an organization of the town. The following is directly from the first record:

“Canandarquay Records,—1791.

At a Town Meeting held at Canandarquay in the County of Ontario, on the first Tuesday in April, 1791, the meeting being opened and superintended by Gen. Israel Chapin, these several persons were elected

into office:—Israel Chapin, Supervisor, James D. Fish, Town Clerk.

Assessors,—John Call, Enos Boughton, Seth Reed, Nathan Comstock, James Austin, Arnold Potter, Nathaniel Justin.

Assessors,—Phineas Bates, John Codding.

Overseers of Poor—Israel Chapin, Nathaniel Gorham.

Commissioners of Highways—Othniel Taylor, Joseph Smith, Benjamin Wells.

Constables—Nathaniel Sanborn, Jared Boughton, Phineas Pierce.

Overseers of Highways and Fence Viewers,—James Latta, Joshua Whitney, John Swift, Daniel Gates, Jabez French, Gamaliel Wilder, Abner Barlow, Isaac Hathway, Hezekiah Boughton, Eber Norton, William Gooding, John D. Robinson. Moses Atwater was Justice of the Peace, and administered the oath to Supervisor Chapin: Voted that all swine at two years old and upwards, shall be yoked with good and sufficient yokes. Also voted, that Thirty Shillings be paid for each wolf scalp brought into the settlement. Ear marks for swine are carefully noted in the old book, and I take personal pride in recording the fact that both Elijah and Elihu Granger slit the left ear instead of the right, showing thereby great confidence in each other, and unanimity in the family. Gen. Chapin was Supervisor until '95, when he was succeeded by Abner Barlow. In 1798 a large party of emigrants arrived and settled close at hand. It consisted of the families of Benjamin Barney, Richard Daker and Vincent Grant, coming from Orange county, with six or seven teams, and quite a retinue of foot attendants. They were twenty-six days on the road, and practiced a species of traveling economy which was a novelty even in the devices of pioneer times. The milk of their cows was put into churns in their wagons, and the ups and downs of the road did the churning.

From a book of miscellaneous records in '97, we find that Peter B. Porter, as County Clerk, records the medical diplomas of Daniel Goodwin, Ralph Wilcox, Jeremiah

and Moses Atwater, William A. Williams and Joel Prescott. In '99, diplomas of John Ray, Samuel Dungan, David Fairchild and Arnold Willis are recorded.—Thomas Cloudesley is made Deputy Clerk in this year; in 1801, Augustus Porter is made Deputy; in 1804, Sylvester Tiffany as County Clerk, makes Dudley Saltonstall Deputy; Thomas Morris appoints John Greig his lawful attorney; Phineas Bates as Sheriff is succeeded by James K. Guernsey. In 1808, Stephen Bates, as Sheriff, makes Nathaniel Allen Deputy; In 1810, Myron Holly is clerk, and a village library is started; in 1811, James B. Mower is Clerk, and Daniel D. Barnard Deputy.

Shortly after the organization of the town, the question of education became an important one; therefore, on the 28th day of January, 1791, Nathaniel Gorham and Oliver Phelps having by deed conveyed 6,000 acres of land in the County of Ontario "to establish and support an Academy or Seminary of learning, on the 12th of February, 1795, the Canandaigua Academy was incorporated. "A subscription was accordingly opened for the new Academy, which paper bears the names of forty persons. The list was headed by Oliver Phelps who subscribed 6,000 acres of land, 4,000 for himself and 2,000 for his friend, Mr. Gorham; Arnold Potter subscribed 200 acres of land, Nathaniel Gorham 100 pounds, Charles Williamson 500 pounds, Thomas Morris the legal interest on 1,000 pounds, Joseph Hill \$5,00, &c., making the whole amount subscribed 6,300 acres of land, 800 pounds, the legal interest on 1,200 pounds, \$866,00 of currency. Converting the land into money at 20 cents per acre, the price then, the subscriptions amounted to something near \$6,000."

The first building, then simply a ground floor; the second story being entirely unfinished, was erected, and since that time, under Dudley Saltonstall, Ichabod Spencer, Thomas Beals, Henry Howe and others, the Academy has prospered equal in the rank of smaller colleges, sending out yearly into the sterner walks of life those who remember the institution in recalling their happiest days.

At a Town Meeting held in '98, it was voted that a good and sufficient Pound be erected at the north east corner of the Square; also that \$500 be raised by tax to defray the expenses of the District.

Starting from the square, roads were laid out, Main street first; then East and West streets; then the one through the Square, it being on the Indian trail to Buffalo.

It is curious to follow on the old maps the Indian trails which show how ready was the knowledge the Indians possessed of the easiest and best way to get from one point to another; and it is a singular fact that the track of the N. Y. Central Railway, and all its branches, follow almost without divergence the Indian trails from Albany to Buffalo.

The first church organization in this place was that of St. Matthews, established in February, '99. A meeting was called at the house of Nathaniel Sanborn; Ezra Platt was called to the chair, and the following officers elected: Ezra Platt and Joseph Colt, wardens; John Clark, Augustus Porter, John Hecox, Nathaniel Sanborn, Benjamin Wells, James Field, Moses Atwater and Aaron Flint, Vestrymen. The Rev. Philander Chase, afterward Bishop, then in deacon's orders, officiated as Rector for several years. As St. Johns Church in after years, it was under the ministry of Rev. Henry Onderdonk.

The First Congregational Church was organized in February of the same year; Rev. Timothy Field pastor; Othniel Taylor, Thaddeus Chapin, Dudley Saltonstall, Seth Holcomb, Abner Barlow and Phineas Bates, trustees.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was erected some years after on Chapel-street, and many years ago moved to the spot it now occupies.

Having the various organizations, both civil and religious, which would tend to strengthen the growth of the village, numerous visitors, travelers and prospective settlers were constantly arriving, which made places of public entertainment necessary, *Taverns* they were called, and did a thriving business. The first undoubtedly was that of Mr. Sanborn, built at or before

'90, and situated where Atwater Hall now stands. A part of it now exists, being moved to Gorham-street. Mr. Sanborn also before 1800, built on the lot known as the Sibley place, now owned by Mr. Wilcox. There was also a Dudley tavern on Main-st., nearly at the lake, which was one of the oldest. Another, kept by a Mr. Doty, being the frame house opposite the foundry, and the old barracks. The high grade of the two houses next south of the foundry is made by the earthen wall around these barracks. Freeman Atwater kept a noted tavern, being the same building now known as the Ontario House. Church's tavern on Main street was also built prior to 1800. Bates' tavern, kept by Phineas P. Bates, on the spot where Mr. Perry's nurseries now are, was continued as such from before 1800 until about 1820, and was the fashionable hotel and boarding house of the village all that time. Blossom's Hotel was built about 1814, by Belah D. Coe, and kept first by one Mills, and then by Coe, until it passed into the hands of Col. William Blossom, and under him was noted for good cheer all over the country. This hotel was burned on the 2d December, 1851.

In February, 1852, John Greig, Francis Granger, Henry B. Gibson, John A. Granger, Mark H. Sibley, Leander M. Drury, and Gideon Granger, entered into an arrangement with Thomas Beals and John Benham, the owners of the land, to erect a new hotel. These latter gentlemen put in the land at \$7,000, and the former subscribed the sum of \$20,000. This falling far short of the amount found necessary, they increased their subscriptions to \$48,000—making the cost of the building and grounds \$55,000. A further subscription of \$15,000 was made by John Greig, H. B. Gibson, and Francis Granger for furniture; and in the summer of 1853, the Canandaigua Hotel was opened once more, under John Thomas, landlord.

The first jail was a log house standing just in front of what is now Torry's coal yard. About 1800, a more substantial jail was built on the ground now covered by the Webster House, and as a hotel and jail

in one was kept by Elijah Tillotson as landlord and sheriff. This was succeeded by the new and present jail in 1815.

The old jail was thereafter used as a tavern until that and the adjoining property was bought by Thomas Beals, who in 1827-8 built what was known as the Franklin House. This house was burned in 1860, and the Webster House immediately erected.

Of stores, there were several. Luther Cole kept a large crockery store in the house owned by the late Albert Daniels, on Main-street. The Gorham house, on the corner of Gorham and Main-sts., was built as a store and dwelling combined, the north half being occupied by Underhill & Seymour for a number of years.

John A. Stevens had a printing office at the corner of Chapel street, and just below Caleb Putnam had a large leather store. Thomas Beals built and kept a dry goods store on the spot where he continued business during his life as a merchant, and from the year 1832, as a banker. He died in 1864, and was succeeded in business and in the ownership of the property by his son Thomas S. Beals.

Ebenezer Hale had his store just north of Bristol street. Abijah Peters was the first tailor. Henry Howard had a store just south of where the Methodist church now stands, and was afterwards burned out.—A Scotchman by the name of Grant had a flourishing brewery east of the bridge at the lake; and an old Indian house, standing where Mrs. McCormick's ice houses now are, was for years, and especially during the war of 1812, a thriving bakery.

The building known as the "Star Building" was built in 1794, the timber being scored by Capt. Hickox. It stood on the east side of the Square, where it remained as the Court House until the building of the brick Court House, which we now use as the Town House, when it was moved across the street, and was used as Post Office and Town Hall until about 1859, when it was bought by Thomas Beals, cut in two and moved to the place it now occupies.—The school sessions of the Academy were

held in the back room during the time the Academy was being repaired in 1836, and for many years Willson and Lester had their office in the south front. Mr. Beals paid \$100 for the building, being determined, to use his own words, "to preserve it in its integrity—codfish and all."

About this time there were two small brick buildings standing just south of Atwater Hall—one a Surrogate's, the other the County Clerk's office. These were sold by Charles Coy, supervisor, at the same time as the sale of the Star Building, to Joshua Tracy, for \$200, and the material used in building the Tracy Block.

Of the houses which stand as they stood in 1800, there are but few left. The old Chapin House on Coy-street, is almost cut off from its ancient lights by new dwellings and stores; the Cleveland house on Chapel-street; the Jackson house on Main, built first for a tavern; the house now owned by T. F. Starks, also built for a tavern, and the Antis house on Bristol-street, stand almost alone among us as relics of the last century.

The house now owned by E. G. Tyler was the first residence of John Greig, and stood immediately in front of his present mansion; was moved about the year 1835 to Gibson street, and for a number of years was the Episcopal Rectory. The house of Judge Taylor was built at an early day by Thomas Morris, and was at one time occupied by Louis Philippe. The John Mosher house was built and occupied by Myron Holley. A. D. Paul's house on Main-st., was the first brick building erected in this village, and was built by James Sibley.

Early in Jan'y, 1796, Charles Williamson had obtained from Pennsylvania, a second-hand newspaper office, and, under the editorship of William Kersey and James Edie, commenced the issue of the Bath Gazette and Genesee Advertiser.—This was the first newspaper in western New York. In the same year he induced one Lucius Carey to establish a paper in Geneva, called the Ontario Gazette and Genesee Advertiser. The paper was continued about eighteen months in Geneva, and was then removed to Canandaigua and

continued its issue until 1802, when it was sold to Nathaniel W. Howell. In 1803, Mr. Carey was succeeded in the editorship by James K. Gould & Russel E. Post, and the paper was called the "Western Repository." In 1804, this partnership was dissolved by the retiring of Mr. Post, who was succeeded by James D. Bemis. Mr. Gould died in 1808, and under Mr. Bemis the paper, then called the Ontario Repository, was issued without interruption for *twenty-one* years. Mr. Bemis was followed by Chauncey Morse and Samuel Ward.— This paper is still regularly published, being the oldest paper, living, in western New York.

In 1803, Sylvester Tiffany established in this village the Ontario Freeman. John A. Stevens was the successor of Mr. Tiffany, and in 1806 commenced the publication of the Ontario Messenger, which continued a most prosperous career until 1862, when it was consolidated with the Repository, by the present editor and publisher, since which time the Repository & Messenger, together with the "Ontario County Times" established in 1852, and the "Ontario County Journal" first published some two years since, weekly lay before us all the items of fact in the real world and many of those of fiction in the political, according as the good of the country requires.

We were now growing stronger, and the population steadily increased. In 1810 it was 1,153; In 1820 it was 4,680; In 1830 it was 5,162; In 1840 it was 5,652; In 1850 it was 6,143; In 1860 it was nearly 7,000, and in 1875, in spite of all the ravages of war, it was 7,799.

Just previous to the war of 1812, the State Arsenal was built, on land given for that purpose by Moses Atwater; 1,000 stand of arms were ordered here in 1808, and when the war came there was a willing hand for every musket.

In 1815 the village was incorporated and placed under the control of a Board of Trustees, consisting of N. W. Howell, President; James Smedley, Thaddeus Chapin, Moses Atwater and Phineas P. Bates, Trustees.

The Ontario Bank was organized in 1813, under Nathaniel Gorham, President, and William Kibbe, Cashier, which, under Mr. Kibbe and then for years under the management of Henry B. Gibson, was a power throughout the State. The Utica Branch Bank was afterwards established, and continued in successful business under Wm. B. Welles and H. K. Sanger for a number of years. Ebenezer Hale got the first discount given at the Ontario Bank, the money being used in the building of the house lately taken down to make room for the Congregational chapel.

On the 30th of April 1830, the Ontario Savings Bank was incorporated, N. W. Howell, H. F. Penfield, John Greig, Jared Willson, Wm. B. Welles, John C. Spencer, Oliver Phelps, Phineas P. Bates and Walter Hubbell incorporators. Two years later, Thomas Beals became Treasurer, and under his judicious oversight the bank prospered and grew until 1855, when it was wound up, and Mr. Beals continued the banking business in a private capacity until his death in 1864. We all know and feel the substantial good our village has received from the success of these men.

In 1825 the Ontario Female Seminary commenced its career of usefulness, which continued without interruption for nearly fifty years. To Hannah Upham belongs the fame which so long attended this school. Her memory to-day dwells pleasantly in countless homes. Coming to this place so long ago, living with us here so many years, which she so faithfully devoted to the education of Christian women, she passed the evening of her days in the quiet of the home her own industry had earned, and when night came she closed the door on earth and rested, for her "lips were touched with the live coal from off the altar," and her peace was won.

With the growth of the village, travel had become very brisk; through stage routes had been established from Albany to Buffalo, and coaches came and went full. In 1810, the first stage route from Albany west was laid out. Canandaigua was the end of the road. In 1816 an op-

position line was established by Samuel Greenleaf and others. Before this new line the time table was as follows: Leave New York Monday evening, and arrive at Albany the next noon; then to Schenectady and sleep; Wednesday to Utica and sleep; then to Skaneateles for over night; and Friday P. M. reach Canandaigua, where the stage remained until the following Monday.

From 1816 to 1840, Mr. Greenleaf as one of the company, had about 400 stages on the road, and from here to Geneva, had sixteen (16) four horse teams constantly in harness. The opposition line shortened up this time somewhat, so that these stages took passengers safely to Albany in two and a half days, and could regularly land you in New York in four, provided there were no detentions.

The railways constructed here in 1836-40, superseded the yellow thorough-braced coach, and carry thousands through our limits to where there was one in the olden days. But they lack the busy air the coaches had, and their whistle shriek is but a poor substitute for the horn, which few of us remember.

The plank road to Palmyra, built in '46, became a smooth road to penury, and with the Elmira and Niagara Falls Railways proved of no benefit to the stock-holders. The first steamer, "Lady of the Lake," was not a profitable investment. She has been followed, however, by four others, which have finally demonstrated the fact that bread pays when "cast upon the waters."

As in a stream, the barriers removed, the first waves of the freed current roll the highest, so in the tide of emigration, the early comers here were men of sturdy, sterling worth. There was too much danger in their lives for littleness: too much to be done for intrigue; no time for scheming, nor hearts for fraud; but knit and bound so closely to each other by kindred cares and hopes and common interest, that the pleasure lay in giving comfort to each other and in defrauding none. Shoulder to shoulder, weeks, months and years

they stood, growing as with one body—waxing strong as with one pulse.

Incomplete and unworthy would be a history of Canandaigua, did we fail to linger about these foot-prints in the sand made by the feet of those who never more may walk these streets, nor give nor take a greeting.

OLIVER PHELPS was born in Windsor, Conn., in the year 1749, and received so much of an education as the limited opportunities of the time afforded. He was a stirring, active and energetic man and patriot. Being engaged in the Revolutionary outbreak at Lexington, he was afterwards Commissary in the army, and was actively employed during the entire war. It was in this way that he became intimately acquainted with Robert Morris, and through him was attracted by the beauties of this western country, which resulted in the purchase.

The village grew and prospered, and with such prosperity came to him the first Judgeship of the county; then a seat in Congress, but neither of these honorable positions changed him from the faithful, quiet citizen, and as such he will ever be remembered.

NATHANIEL GORHAM, the associate of Mr. Phelps in the purchase, was never in this place, but was represented in all his interests by his son, NATHANIEL GORHAM, Jr., who in 1789, being then in his 26th year, came on here, and in the full strength of practical intelligence and vigorous manhood, co-operated with Mr. Phelps in the development of their large possessions.—Mr. Gorham died in October, 1826, and it was fitly said of him at the time, "in him we have lost a friend indeed; we know not that he had an enemy; we are sure he was an enemy to none."

It is a matter of deep regret that in the record of Gen. ISRAEL CHAPIN so few specific items are to be found, for no one—not even the purchasers themselves—was more directly identified with the settlement of western New York than he. His position and character were such that perhaps that fact alone made no one think a biographer or eulogist necessary. We only find that,

born in Hatfield, Mass., in 1741, he became at the first Revolutionary outbreak, a Captain in the earliest militia organizations of his native state, rising to the rank of Colonel, and, at the close of the war was serving as Brigadier General. Coming to this place alone in 1789, he removed his family here in 1790; was made General Agent among the Six Nations by Gen. Knox, Secretary of War, and thereafter was the main dependence of the settlement for preserving peace, not only between the white and red man, but among the Indians themselves, a task which the introduction of "fire water" made extremely difficult and hazardous. At the Pickering Treaty in 1794 General Chapin contracted a disease which ended with his death the following year. At his burial, which was attended by all who could get here, Red Jacket, unable even as an Indian to restrain his tears, said:—

"Brothers! We have lost a good friend. The Six Nations weep with the United States. The chain of friendship which he made between us and our white brothers, we must ever keep bright.

"Brothers! It is a custom among us when a great chief dies to drop a belt where he has sat. We have lost so many warriors that our belts are few, but we give you the blackened wampum.

"Brothers! It is another custom with our people to visit the sleeping ground of our dead, and cover it with leaves and flowers. This we will do for him, for we loved him."

And that was the first Decoration Day in Canandaigua.

JASPER PARRISH undoubtedly endured more hardship and dangers than any of the early settlers here, but these very trials made him the more useful to his fellow townsmen, rendering him even of greater service to them than Gen. Chapin himself. His long captivity among the Indians enabled him not only to master their language and dialects, but as intimately to learn all their customs as any one of themselves. He was born in Windham, Conn., in March, 1767, and as a child had been taken by his father with the rest of the family to a township near Elmira. While he and his father were assisting some newcomers in their approach to the settlement, they were surprised and captured by Indians. The father was retained in captivity about five years, but the son was not restored to his people until the treaty at Fort Stanwix, during which time he had nearly forgotten his own language, but in place had acquired that of the Indians so entirely that after the Pickering Treaty he was made, at their request, Indian Agent for the Indians, and was in frequent conference here with Gen. Chapin, who was Indian Agent for the Government. By the wise and just management, by these two agents, of all the delicate questions which arose between the white and red men, all trouble was avoided, however imminent it may have been at times; and Mr. Parrish lived and died respected and beloved by both races. Indeed by the Indians themselves his memory has been handed down to the few Iroquois left, who yearly visit his descendants as though with a right to sit at his fireside.

In May, 1796, NATHANIEL W. HOWELL, bringing his library in his saddle bags, rode up this street and first saw his future home. Born in 1770; graduated from Princeton in 1787; teaching school for three years, he studied law with Judge Hoffman in the city of New York, and was licensed to practice in 1794. He established himself in Tioga county in 1795, but being called by his professional duties to this place, he was so much inspired with its beauty of location and the fair promise of what was yet to be, that he determined to settle here, becoming at once the counsel and attorney of Charles Williamson, the agent of the Pulteney estate, then residing at Bath, at that time in this county. From 1799 to 1802, he was Attorney-General for the five western counties of this state; was elected to the Legislature, and in '13-'14 to Congress. In 1819 he was appointed County Judge, which office he held for thirteen years.

Intimately associated with Judge HOWELL, first as student, then partner, always as friend, was JOHN GREIG. Their lives

here among us lay nearly together—nor in death were they long divided. Mr. Greig was born at Moffat, Scotland, August 6, 1776. His father was a writer to the Signet, and factor or agent to Lord Hopetown; himself educated at the Edinburgh University, he came to New York in December, 1799, and to Canandaigua in 1800. Retiring from the partnership with Judge Howell, he became an agent of many foreign capitalists, and, by a most judicious management of their business, materially increased the value of their interests, and laid the foundation of his own abundant fortune. His marriage with the daughter of Capt. Israel Chapin, a son of the General, in 1806, bound him forever with the interests and prosperity of the village, which was always most liberally cared for until his death on the 9th of April, 1858.

Among the earliest comers to this place was THOMAS BEALS, whose long life of business activity left so many monuments to his worth, that his memory is of the freshest in our minds. Born in Boston, he came to this place in 1803. At the early age of 20, teaching in the Academy he gave shape and aim to a future of prosperity to the institution, which has been most fully realized. Attaching himself, in the course of a few years to the Savings Bank, he was forever after most intimately identified with the business prosperity of the village, and as much as any other expended time and money in the embellishment and decoration of our streets. He gave his personal attention to the building of our Alms and County House, and in a silent way, peculiarly his own, did kindly acts for the needy poor and destitute.

As facts of history at all times, and justly, outweigh personal modesty, it is proper that the name of GIDEON GRANGER should fill its place in our memory. I quote directly from the record: "GIDEON GRANGER was born in Suffield, Conn., in 1767; and graduated at Yale College in 1787. He studied law and rose to eminence in his profession; was appointed Postmaster-General in 1801, which position he held until 1814. In that year he moved to Canandaigua, where he was professionally en-

gaged in business connected with the Phelps and Gorham purchase. He was an advocate for internal improvement, and gave a large tract of land for the Erie canal. A most fluent writer and of distinguished talents. He died in 1822."

HENRY B. GIBSON, whose name for years was but another word for unshaken and unshakable integrity and business ability, came to this place in 1821, being called here by the stock-holders of the Ontario Bank, the affairs of which institution were in considerable trouble at that time. Previous to this, leaving his native place, Reading, Penn., he had at one time been the senior partner of the firm of Gibson & Sherman in New York City; at another attached to a bank in Utica; and at the time of his leaving the city, was in the Manhattan Bank. It did not require a lengthened period for Mr. Gibson to instill new strength and vigor into the feeble life of his charge here, which healthily tone passed out into all the affairs of the community, and revived into increasing activity the business relations and combinations of the village, until this place became noted throughout the state for its wealth and prosperity. To him do we owe this, and we sorely realized it at his death.

Canandaigua ought to, and I am sure does, love the memory of WILLIAM WOOD. Others perhaps gave her a name and existence, but he, in his quaint odd way, was ever adding some touch of beauty or charm of shape to her comeliness, which we see to-day turn where we will. The witnesses of what he was to her and us, are hanging in our Court House; along our streets; in our Jail and County House; and, better still, in the hearts of the poor. Grateful flowers for the sick, food for the hungry, warmth for the poor, came from under the old blue cloak, beneath which beat a heart as gentle and as loving as a woman's. The very stones of the street he washed that they might look better to us; and the trees for his sake to-day give us shade. That man is happy indeed, and worthy indeed, where even the stones praise him and the trees rock prouder in his honor.

WILLIAM WOOD was born in Charles-

town, Mass., in 1777, and there received a liberal education. At 20 he went to Liverpool, attached to a mercantile house.—Business complications compelled his return after a brief absence, when he first visited this place, which became his home in 1826. He employed himself in the establishing of libraries for young men. The number of these cannot now be ascertained, but he said himself: "In 1819, I commenced gathering books for the Merchants and Mechanics' Library in Boston; then in New York, Albany and Philadelphia; afterwards by correspondence in New Orleans. I also sent libraries to Louisville, Cincinnati and Wheeling. I have had the pleasure to establish libraries all the way from New Orleans to Montreal." He next introduced them on vessels on the Hudson; then on our merchantmen, and finally on our ships of war, the "Franklin" taking the first library of about 2,500 volumes. The Mercantile Library of the city of New York is a child of his, and to-day has over 150,000 volumes.

By his advice our broad sidewalks were laid out, and our shade trees planted.—Lawns and winding paths were marked and trimmed out into shape; all which would tend to the future beauty of our homes was suggested to us, and even sometimes done without our knowledge. He lived not really when he lived, nor died when he was dead, but labored hard for years he could not see, and seasons with him absent. There is no need of epitaph from us, nor chiseled urn nor marble. His memory freshens with the leaves he loved; grows brighter with their turning. There is no winter in his memory, for the snows press gently on the good old man, whose record is as spotless as their whiteness, and hearts are warm toward him.

These men were not alone in all their labors, nor on them alone did every honor fall. THOMAS MORRIS came to share the one, and worthily wore the other. AUGUSTUS PORTER surveyed and resurveyed this wilderness, enduring from his very occupation, weariness and danger which few, even of his friends, suspected. His brother

PETER B., earning not less his spotless record here, but so much surpassing it by his future daring and ability, that we forget what he was to us in his splendid services to the nation.

Further down in time we come to men whose names are still more freshly spoken; whose faces we have lived to see. The grass which here is worn so smooth by busy feet, in but a step to yonder yard, sways in a mournful monotone above the men who knew these streets so well.—JARED WILLSON with his wealth of humor, his mind so full of everything attractive; MARK H. SIBLEY, warm to every kind emotion, carrying the same great force of argument in other walks beside the lawyers; ALVAN WORDEN, keen and critical in every nice distinction, as close and sure in every earnest friendship as in legal points; WALTER HUBBELL, hiding mines of hard earned love beneath a perfect piety. The brothers GRANGER, who knew them best, loved most.

As one by one these forest elms and oaks they loved have fallen, these men have fallen too. The lines which mark our gardens and our lawns, to them were all unknown, or only blazed upon the ragged bark of trees; our roads and walks were trails which reached out into boundless solitude or led from one small clearing to another; our Sunday bells had never startled echos from the woods; undreamed of was the roll of a train or shriek of a steamer; and yet alone, in all this mighty wilderness, they reached a greatness which it is our aim not to excel, but gain, and left behind them names and fame so dear and treasured that where the limit of their symmetry began and where left off, we do not try to know.

As an industrious maiden, our Canandaigua was never remarkable. She was now grown to be very pleasing to the eye, and very kind at heart, but there were lacking the physical attributes in the shape of power, mines and minerals, which were essential to the establishing of those industries, which, had the case been different, would have caused a more rapid growth. Large

fortunes have been made here under her very eye, it is true, but they are the exception, and it shows what a gentle, impartial mother she has been, that wealth has been so evenly distributed among her children, and envy never in her household: Her labors have been rather devoted to doing good, and so she caused it that from out one household, from beside one fire, as the Senecas would have said, came both Brigham Hall for the insane and the Asylum for the Orphans, and we know how Canandaigua bowed her head in anguish when the frenzied hand of madness left only one beside that fire, and she a mourner. The Asylum for the insane was founded by Dr. George Cook, and incorporated in 1859, and has ever since afforded home and kindness to those so sorely afflicted. The Ontario County Orphan Asylum, incorporated under special act of '63, has prospered beyond the hopes of any of its founders; full to overflowing with those who need its help, and well nigh as full of those who offer it.

Since 1860, the history of our mother Canandaigua, already mature and matronly, is too fresh in our minds to need more than passing mention. From 106 in 1790, she has become 7,799. From \$500 taxes, she this year levied \$20,775, and last year more. From land at 18c an acre, she holds it cheap at \$200; from venison in the woods, "the cattle on a thousand hills" are her's; from maize and corn for home, she flings her seeds out from her generous hands as though to plant a universe; from calling help to Macedonia, from Macedonia she goes out and gives her thousands to the needy.

There came a time when she was old, although she's older now, when Sumter's gun awoke her from her sleep, and then she raised her hands and said: "My children, go!" And you, her sons, went out. Some who went are here to-day, and some ——. The flowers are hardly withered yet which you, with pious care have laid upon a comrade's grave, and when those leaves do fade, their perfume seeks the skies. And some there were who fell and lie, we know not where. A Gentler Hand

than our's will yearly fling some fragrance on the mound, if only daisies or a clover top, to mark the spot where the Red Hand stopped them and kept them from their Home.

Other sons she had, our older brothers, so worthy of our love, well nigh all passed away. We know the names they bore, and hear the names they left, but only rarely can we mark a halting tread which tells us one is here. For like that old oak yonder, which knew them well, they're almost gone and only here and there a leaf still clings along the parent stem. Long years ago, when they and it were in their prime, it cast a friendly shade upon their gatherings. But now it only stretches palsied arms above us here, and throws naught but a benison from off its wasted fingers.

This is but a fragment of the history of our mother—too poorly rendered at the best, and full of faults—but not from want of any love to her. She came a little thing, in far off years, and, cradled first upon our lake, she turned her feeble steps toward the north. Groping her way through forest shades, she grew and strengthened daily, until, still pressing on, she pushed the trees aside and left our streets in all their beauty. She set up hearth stones here and there, and they in turn reared others. She beckoned to her kinsmen at the east, and they came on and made their fires here. She grew to womanhood, and stood erect in all the symmetry of her fair proportions. She reached out further in the forest, and blessed the seed with bounteous harvests, waving her yellow hair in the summer's breeze in exultation at her victory. She's now grown old, but never locks of gray will frost her brow, save when the winter's breath shall chill ~~her~~ blood—nor feebleness show in her tread save when she holds some wanderer. Year after year when she shall see a tired child of hers lie down to take a dreamless sleep—as all must do as time goes on—she takes the weary son within her arms, and holds him there forever.—We all have loved ones pillowed there to-day. And when our own time comes and

we, worn with our marching through the found, a sleep of rest, a rest of perfect dust and heat of time, fall from the ranks, peace, once more upon the bosom of our to leave our sons advancing still, then we Mother. in turn will find, as surely as our father's



THE HISTORY OF CANANDAIGUA.

AN

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

July 4, 1876.

BY J. ALBERT GRANGER, Esq.

CANANDAIGUA, N. Y.

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